A Disciple's PRAYER BOOK

ANGLICAN COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

ABOUT OUR LOGO

The logo for the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples was designed by the Rev. Mervin Wolfleg of the Siksika Nation in southern Alberta, inspired by words and images of The Rev. Arthur Anderson, a Plains Cree from Punnichy, Saskatchewan. Mervin explains its many symbolisms.

The **fish** at the centre of the logo is formed by the overlap of two circles—or two traditions—coming together, the Aboriginal tradition and the European tradition.

The point where they come together is where Christ is to be found, represented by both the **cross** and the fish (which also contains the form of the Greek letters, Alpha and Omega.)

The cross is surrounded by the **four colours** of the four peoples of the world. Our vision is of all races coming together.

The fish and the cross also contain within them the initials of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

The **eagle** has always been a strong image for Aboriginal peoples. The eagle feather attached to the cross comes from Isaiah 40:30 — “But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles.” If people can come together, they will fly.

The **green** in the logo represents our Mother

Earth, and the **blue** the waters of the oceans that surround the continents.

Blue is also the colour of Hope for Aboriginal people. When we are watching for good weather to come, we look for the first signs of blue in the sky.

Green is also the symbol of new growth.

Red is the colour of the Aboriginal peoples.

GATHERING PRAYER

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the Centre of this Sacred Circle through all of which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever.

AMEN.

FORWARD

(re-printed from the 1992 version of the Disciple's Prayer Book)

St. Ephrem said that Mary conceived Jesus by "Her ear." We also see Jesus become flesh among us through hearing the Gospel. This book is a pastoral adaptation of the Book of Common Prayer to help disciples hear the Gospel and see Jesus.

The method and form are not the most important feature of this resource. Like the Gospel itself, you well see the principles that are the foundation of this work thrive on local adaptation and expansion. The Gospel itself is the agent of change and transformation.

Thanks be to God for the Spirit's power that still inspires hearts, creates revolutions, and saves human beings in their communal and individual lives.

Thanks, also, to the many disciples who have shared this journey – in Alaska, Minnesota, inner city Chicago, across Indian Country in North American, in small churches in too many places to track, all the way to "815" in New York City. These people have helped to make this a people to people movement.

We must give special honor to the American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian elders who insisted that we all keep the Gospel in the center of everything we do. They said that we must gather in circles of love and prayer and place that which is most sacred to us in the center

– the Gospel. This discipleship – listening to the Gospel and living it out in the circle of love and prayer – is our great joy and give us a horizon that many of us thought unobtainable.

The Right Reverend Mark L MacDonald
Bishop of the Diocese of Alaska
Bishop Mark is now the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop in Canada
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Twenty-five years after the development of the Disciple's Prayer Book both Native and non-Native communities come together in Circles – where two or three are gathered – with the Gospel at the center building relationships as disciples. What began as a pastoral adaptation of the Book of Common Prayer is now a well-known, well-established resource in the Episcopal Church

and the Anglican Communion. We cannot thank enough the wisdom, passion and prayerful discernment of the original authors. We are grateful to the disciples across the globe who faithfully come together building relationships with others and God through the gospel. When disciples gather in a Circle, Jesus becomes the teacher living in the center of the community. The gospel becomes fully alive, a living, breathing and organic element in the life and the place where it is being experienced.

Revision Committee:
The Rt Rev Mark MacDonald
The Rev John Robertson
The Rev Canon Ginny Doctor
Martha Allen
Cornelia Eaton
The Rev Debbie Royals

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As Gospel Based Disciples we commit:

1. To regularly engage the Gospel
2. To take seriously our own spiritual formation
3. To nurture and foster the spiritual formation of others
4. To live the Baptismal Covenant
5. To live as a community of disciples
6. To foster reconciliation, healing, and vision
7. To pray and worship regularly
8. To respect the spiritual traditions, values and customs of our many peoples
9. To take full responsibility for our local ministries

RULE OF LIFE

Creator God we acknowledge and
give thanks that:

In Jesus we know we belong to a Sacred
Circle with the Gospel and Baptismal
Covenant in the Center
In this Sacred Circle:
We are all related;
We live a compassionate and
generous life;
We respect all life, traditions, and
resources;
We commit ourselves to spiritual
growth, discipleship, and
consensus.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR LEADING GOSPEL BASED DISCIPLESHIP

BACKGROUND

- Gospel Based Discipleship is not a program. It is not Bible Study. It is an encounter with the Gospel, designed to engage people with the Gospel appointed for the day, or the Sunday proper. It depends on participants being willing to share responses to the three questions:

  - What words or ideas did you hear?

  - What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?

  - What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?

FORMAT

- **Gospel Based Discipleship** may be used by any group. An experienced leader is not required. In fact, rotating leadership is recommended. GBD may be used by a regular study group, to begin a meeting of a vestry or other group, as a form for worship, or as a personal devotion. Normally the appointed Gospel for the day is used (following the Lectionary).

- Following the model of the daily offices, the booklet is divided into four times of the day: Morning, Noon, Early Evening and Close of Day.

- The booklet includes services for each of the church seasons:

(Epiphany and Ordinary Time) ***Green***

(Advent and Lent) ***Purple***

(Easter) ***White***

(Christmas and Pentecost) ***Red***

METHOD

- The questions: What words or phrases did you hear? What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you? What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do? are designed to elicit personal reflection, sharing and discussion. It is important for people to know there is no right or wrong answer. The group is seeking the truth by hearing what the Gospel says to them individually and

corporately. Statements like: "that's not what we believe" or, "you're wrong about that", are not helpful. Statements that elicit response such as, "Could you say more about that" or, "I've never thought of that before" keep the discussion going. Persons who do GBD regularly find new insight and revelation are the rewards.

- Using at least two or three translations of the Gospel – a different one read before each question is posed – is recommended. Many groups have had a positive experience using The Message (NAV Press), a contemporary translation by Eugene Petersen, for one of the readings. The Lectionary readings are usually in the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). You may choose not to provide a printed version except for the one reading. This encourages "listening".

GBD IN A MEETING

- Starting a meeting with GBD grounds participants in the Scripture and focuses the energy of the group. The relevance of the Gospel message to the meeting adds perspective. It also is a good way to encourage people to share with one another at a spiritual level. Normally a copy of the Scriptures remains on the table, or in the room, with the understanding that at any time during the meeting anyone may call for the reading of the Gospel again. This often helps refocus the group especially when the group becomes distracted or conflicted.

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES FROM GBD

- Groups that use GBD regularly should expect to begin to see their call to mission differently. Some congregations use GBD as a way to

focus on what God is calling them to do in their community.

- Spiritual friendships develop through GBD. As people become familiar with the process and each other, spiritual journeys are shared and people know one another in a new way, not based merely on similar likes or dislikes, but as disciples on a journey together.

- The entire faith community encounters the Gospel as peers, whether lay or ordained. This leads to a vision of the community gathered around Scripture.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Disciple's Prayer Book has been designed as an easy-to-lead resource for congregations and groups. Also included in this booklet are: A

Blessing Service, A Vigil Service, A Gathering Service, A Healing Service and a Eucharist.

The size of the booklet has been re-designed to fit conveniently in a shirt pocket or in a purse/bag. The Disciple's Prayer Book was designed using the Book of Common Prayer as a guide. Additional resources were designed using liturgical material from the Episcopal Church services.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him in newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic church.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead**.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **AMEN**.

CHRIST IS BORN!
In the Morning

THE GATHERING

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise

Psalm 51:16, 11-13

Open my lips, O Lord,
***and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
***and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence
***and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again
***and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
***as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. *What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?*
2. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?*
3. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?*

APOSTLE'S CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only
Son, our Lord

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated
at the right hand of the Father, and
he will come again to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRIST HAS DIED
At Noon

THE GATHERING

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compaasionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise
From Psalm 113

Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
***praise the Name of the LORD.**

Let the Name of the LORD be blessed,
***from this time forth for evermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its going down
***let the Name of the LORD be praised.**

The LORD is high above all nations,
***and his glory above the heavens.**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. *What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?*
2. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?*
3. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?*

PRAYER

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. Amen.

or this

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

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And lead us not into temptation,
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For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRIST IS RISEN
In the Early Evening

THE GATHERING

This devotion may be used before or after the evening meal.

The Gathering Prayer

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE GATHERING HYMN OF PRAISE

**O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

GOSPEL of the DAY

As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. *What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?*
2. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?*
3. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?*

PRAYER

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
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thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN
At the Close of the Day

THE GATHERING

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise
Psalm 134

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,
***you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.**

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD;
***the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.**

GOSPEL of the DAY
As appointed
RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:
1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?

2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?

PRAYER

Lord, you now have set your servant free
***to go in peace as you have promised;**

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
***whom you have prepared for all the world to see**

A Light to enlighten the nations,
***and the glory of your people Israel.**

PRAYERS

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

Prayers for ourselves and others may follow. It

is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included.

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Officiant:

The almighty and merciful Lord,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us
and keep us. **Amen.**

CHRIST IS BORN!

In the Morning

THE GATHERING

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise

Psalm 63:1-4, 7-8 *Deus, Deus meus*

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
*** my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.**

2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
***that I might behold your power and your glory.**

3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
***my lips shall give you praise.**

4 So will I bless you as long as I live
***and lift up my hands in your Name.**

7 For you have been my helper,
***and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.**

8 My soul clings to you;
***your right hand holds me fast.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
***as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

GOSPEL of the DAY
As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. *What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?*
2. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?*
3. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?*

APOSTLE'S CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only
Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated
at the right hand of the Father, and
he will come again to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER

Prayers Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day:

Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity;

and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
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thy kingdom come,
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Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRIST HAS DIED
At Noon

THE GATHERING

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compaasionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise

Psalm 130 De profundis

1 Out of the depths have I called to you,
O LORD; LORD, hear my voice;
***let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**

2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss,
***O Lord, who could stand?**

3 For there is forgiveness with you;
***therefore you shall be feared.**

4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him;
***in his word is my hope.**

5 My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning,

***more than watchmen for the morning.**

6 O Israel, wait for the LORD,
***for with the LORD there is mercy;**

7 With him there is plenteous redemption,
***and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?

PRAYER

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. Amen.

or this

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and

unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

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And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen**.

CHRIST IS RISEN

In the Early Evening

THE GATHERING

This devotion may be used before or after the evening meal.

The Gathering Prayer

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering Hymn of Praise

Psalm 141:1-4, 8-9   Domine, clamavi

1 O LORD, I call to you; come to me quickly;
***hear my voice when I cry to you.**

2 Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
***the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

3 Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD, and guard the door of my lips;
***let not my heart incline to any evil thing.**

4 Let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers,
***nor eat of their choice foods.**

8 But my eyes are turned to you, Lord GOD;
***in you I take refuge; do not strip me of my life.**

9 Protect me from the snare which they have laid for me
***and from the traps of the evildoers.**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?

PRAYER

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

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Give us this day our daily bread.
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And lead us not into temptation,
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For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN
At the Close of Day

THE GATHERING

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise
Psalm 139:1-3, 6, 10-13, 19-20
Domine, probasti

LORD, you have searched me out and known me;
***you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You trace my journeys and my resting-places
***and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
***but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

Where can I go then from your Spirit?
***where can I flee from your presence?**

If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me,
***and the light around me turn to night,”**

Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;
***darkness and light to you are both alike.**

For you yourself created my inmost parts;
***you knit me together in my mother’s womb.**

I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
***your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

They speak despitefully against you;
***your enemies take your Name in vain.**

Do I not hate those, O LORD, who hate you?
***and do I not loathe those who rise up against you?**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. *What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?*
2. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?*
3. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?*

PRAYER

Lord, you now have set your servant free
***to go in peace as you have promised;**

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
***whom you have prepared for all the world to see**
A Light to enlighten the nations,
***and the glory of your people Israel.**

PRAYERS

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

Prayers for ourselves and others may follow. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included.

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Officiant: The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

CHRIST IS BORN!
In the Morning

THE GATHERING

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise
Psalm 96:1-4, 11-13
Cantate Domino

1 Sing to the LORD a new song;
***sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.**

2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;
***proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

3 Declare his glory among the nations
***and his wonders among all peoples.**

4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
***he is more to be feared than all gods.**

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth
be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in
it;
***let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout
for joy before the LORD when he comes,
***when he comes to judge the earth.**

13 He will judge the world with righteousness
***and the peoples with his truth.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit:
***as it was in the beginning, is now, and will
be for ever. Amen.**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As Appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?

APOSTLE'S CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only
Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated
at the right hand of the Father, and
he will come again to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day:

Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity;

and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRIST HAS DIED!
At Noon

THE GATHERING

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compaasionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise
Psalm 121 Levavi oculos

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
***from where is my help to come?**

2 My help comes from the LORD,
***the maker of heaven and earth.**

3 He will not let your foot be moved
***and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.**

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
***shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

5 The LORD himself watches over you;
***the LORD is your shade at your right hand,**

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
***nor the moon by night.**

7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;
***it is he who shall keep you safe.**

8 The LORD shall watch over your going out
and your coming in,
***from this time forth for evermore.**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As Appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?

PRAYER

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. **Amen.**

or this

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
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Officiant: Let us pray.

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thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN
At the Close of Day

THE GATHERING

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise
Psalm 34:1-8, 17-19, 22
Benedicam Dominum

1 I will bless the LORD at all times;
***his praise shall ever be in my mouth.**

2 I will glory in the LORD;
***let the humble hear and rejoice.**

3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
***let us exalt his Name together.**

4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me
***and delivered me out of all my terror.**

5 Look upon him and be radiant,
***and let not your faces be ashamed.**

6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me
*and saved me from all my troubles.**

7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him,
***and he will deliver them.**

8 Taste and see that the LORD is good;
***happy are they who trust in him!**

17 The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
***and delivers them from all their troubles.**

18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
***and will save those whose spirits are crushed.**

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous,
*but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.**

22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants,
*and none will be punished who trust in him.**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. *What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?*
2. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?*
3. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?*

PRAYER

Lord, you now have set your servant free
***to go in peace as you have promised;**

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
***whom you have prepared for all the world to see**

A Light to enlighten the nations,
***and the glory of your people Israel.**

PRAYERS

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

Prayers for ourselves and others may follow. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included.

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
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thy kingdom come,
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on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Officiant: The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen.

CHRIST IS BORN!
In the Morning

THE GATHERING

The Gathering Prayer

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise
Psalm 103:1-6, 20-22
Benedic, anima mea

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
***and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.**

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
***and forget not all his benefits.**

3 He forgives all your sins
***and heals all your infirmities;**

4 He redeem your life from the grave
***and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

5 He satisfies you with good things,
***and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**

6 The LORD executes righteousness
***and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding,
***and hearken to the voice of his word.**

21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts,
***you ministers of his who do his will.**

22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion;
***bless the LORD, O my soul.**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?

APOSTLE'S CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER

Prayers Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRIST HAS DIED
At Noon

THE GATHERING

The Gathering Prayer

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compaasionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise

Psalm 84   Quam dilecta

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!
*__My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.__**

2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
***by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house!
***they will always be praising you.**

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
*whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

5 Those who go through the desolate valley
will find it a place of springs,
***for the early rains have covered it with
pools of water.**

6 They will climb from height to height,
***and the God of gods will reveal himself in
Zion.**

7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
***hearken, O God of Jacob.**

8 Behold our defender, O God;
***and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
***and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield;
***he will give grace and glory;**

11 No good thing will the LORD withhold
***from those who walk with integrity.**

12 O LORD of hosts,
***happy are they who put their trust in you!**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?

PRAYER

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. Amen.

or this

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRIST IS RISEN

In the Early Evening

THE GATHERING

This devotion may be used before or after the evening meal.

The Gathering Prayer

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering Hymn of Praise

Psalm 141:1-4, 8-9   Domine, clamavi

1 O LORD, I call to you; come to me quickly;
***hear my voice when I cry to you.**

2 Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
***the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

3 Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD, and guard the door of my lips;
***let not my heart incline to any evil thing.**

4 Let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers,
***nor eat of their choice foods.**

8 But my eyes are turned to you, Lord GOD;
***in you I take refuge; do not strip me of my life.**

9 Protect me from the snare which they have laid for me
***and from the traps of the evildoers.**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?

PRAYER

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN
At the Close of Day

THE GATHERING

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering Psalm of Praise
Psalm 147:1, 3-6, 15-19
Laudate Dominum

1 Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
***how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!**

3 He heals the brokenhearted
***and binds up their wounds.**

4 He counts the number of the stars
***and calls them all by their names.**

5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
***there is no limit to his wisdom.**

6 The LORD lifts up the lowly,
***but casts the wicked to the ground.**

15 He has established peace on your borders;
***he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

16 He sends out his command to the earth,
***and his word runs very swiftly.**

17 He gives snow like wool;
***he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;
***who can stand against his cold?**

19 He sends forth his word and melts them;
***he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**

GOSPEL of the DAY

As appointed

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. *What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?*
2. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?*
3. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?*

PRAYER

Lord, you now have set your servant free
***to go in peace as you have promised;**

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
***whom you have prepared for all the world to see**

A Light to enlighten the nations,
***and the glory of your people Israel.**

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS) Prayers for ourselves and others may follow. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included.

COLLECTS

This and/or other Collects as appointed are said or sung

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Officiant: The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. **Amen**.

Special Services

A BLESSING SERVICE
THE GATHERING

Officiant: Peace be to this place and all who are gathered here.

The Gathering Prayer

Said in Unison:

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you placed the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God now and forever. Amen.

A Blessing Psalm
Psalm 24
Domini est terra

1 The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it,
***the world and all who dwell therein.**

2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas
***and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**

3 “Who can ascend the hill of the LORD?”
***“and who can stand in his holy place?”**

4 “Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
***who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud.**

5 They shall receive a blessing from the LORD
*and a just reward from the God of their salvation.”

6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,
***of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

7 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;
***and the King of glory shall come in.**

8 “Who is this King of glory?”
***“The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.”**

9 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;
***and the King of glory shall come in.**

10 “Who is he, this King of glory?”
***“The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.”**

GOSPEL OF THE DAY

RESPONSE

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day

1. *What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day? (Reread the Gospel.)*
2. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you ? (Reread the Gospel.)*
3. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?*

PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

The following prayers are to be said together by all present

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FOR A HOME BLESSING

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Drive far from it all snares of the enemy. Bless all who live or gather here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love (to each other and) to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen.

FOR THE BLESSING OF OTHER ARTICLES

O heavenly Father, whose blessed Son taught the disciples in all of the scriptures the things concerning Himself. Bless this ______________

which we dedicate here today to your glory, and grant that we may so diligently search your holy Word that we may find in it the wisdom that leads to salvation; through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COMMON BLESSING

Said in unison by all present

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us His children through the resurrection of His Son our Lord, bestow upon us the richness of His blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make us holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring us to our eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Officiant:

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

A VIGIL SERVICE

THE GATHERING

(The People say the words in bold type.)

In the Name of God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

The Gathering Prayer

God is with us; God's love unites us, God's purpose steadies us, God's Spirit comforts us.

Blessed be God forever.

Merciful and compassionate God, we bring you our grief in the loss of N. and ask for courage to bear it. We bring you our thanks for all you give us in those we love; and we bring you our prayers for peace of heart in the knowledge of your mercy and love, in Christ Jesus. **AMEN.**

Lord, you now have set your servant free
***to go in peace as you have promised;**

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
***whom you have prepared for all the world to see:**

A Light to enlighten the nations,
***and the glory of your people Israel.**

The Song of Simeon Nunc dimittis.

Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness;
***I will sing and make music to the LORD.**
Hearken to my voice, 0 LORD, when I call;
***have mercy on me and answer me.**

You speak in my heart and say, “Seek my face.”
***Your face, LORD, will I seek.**

Hide not your face from me,
***nor turn away your servant in displeasure.**

You have been my helper; cast me not away;
***do not forsake me, 0 God of my salvation.**

Though my father and my mother forsake me,
***the LORD will sustain me.**

Show me your way, O LORD;
***lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.**

Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries,
***for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.**

What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD
***in the land of the living!**

O tarry and await the LORD'S pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart;
***wait patiently for the LORD.**

Psalm 27:9-18

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
***as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL

The following and/or other appropriate Scripture Reading(s) may be used

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

John 11:25-26a

14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in
God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house
there are many dwelling places. If it were not
so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a
place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place
for you, I will come again and will take you to
myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.
4 And you know the way to the place where I am

going” [5]Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” [6]Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

John 14:1-6a

THE RESPONSE

Reflect upon and Respond to the Gospel

THE PRAYERS

These and/or other prayers are said or sung

God of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer. We thank you for the peace and light you bestow upon them; in your loving wisdom and almighty power continue to work in them the good purpose of your perfect will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Glorious God, with your whole Church we offer you our thanks and praise for all you have done for humanity through Jesus Christ. By giving him to live and die for us you have disclosed your gracious plan for the whole world, and shown that your love has no limit. By raising Jesus from the dead you have promised that those who trust in him will share his resurrection life. For the assurance and hope of our faith, and for the saints you received into eternal joy, we thank you all holy and gracious God. And especially now we lift up our hearts in thanksgiving for the life of *N*, now gone from us; for all your goodness to *her/him* through many days, for all that *she/he* was to those who loved *her/him* and for everything in *her/his* life that reflected your goodness and love, blessed be your name, O God. **AMEN.**

We commend _N._ to God, as _*she/he*_ journeys beyond our sight O God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us, conquered death, and by rising again, restored life. May we not be afraid of death but desire to be with Christ, to be with the those we love, where every tear is wiped away and all things made new. We ask this through Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Officiant: Let us pray.

Now to the One who can keep us from falling and set us in the presence of the divine glory, jubilant and above reproach, to the only God our Savior, be glory and majesty, might and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all time, now and for evermore. **AMEN.**

A GATHERING

Said in Unison

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you placed the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God now and forever. AMEN.

THE GATHERING PSALM OR SONG

The following from Psalm 113, or some Psalm, song, or music is offered

Give praise, you servants of the Lord,
***praise the Name of the LORD.**

Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
***from this time for evermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its going down,
***let the Name of the LORD be praised.**

The LORD is high above all nations,
***and his glory above the Heaven.**

THE GOSPEL

The Gospel of the Day, or some other portion of the Gospel, is now read.

RESPONSE

Reflect and respond to the Gospel

(An opportunity is given for the Gathering to Respond from the point of view of the people gatherered. The form below may also be used).

1. *What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day? (Reread the Gospel.)*
2. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you ? (Reread the Gospel.)*
3. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?*

PRAYER

Individual and Group Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Some activity or meeting follow here.

OUR CLOSING PRAYER

God our Father, you see us your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show us that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help us to take failure, not as measure of our worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give us strength to build our faith in you, and to keep alive our joy in your creation: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A HEALING SERVICE

This rite requires careful preparation by leaders of the service.

THE GATHERING

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the Center of this Sacred Circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God
The proclamation and response may include readings, song, dance, instrumental music, other art forms, talking or silence.

A reading from the Gospel is always included.

Pray for the healing of the body, mind, emotion and spirit of the person, community and church
Prayers may be offered by participants either aloud or in silence

A CONFESSION

May follow the Prayers of the People above

CLOSING COLLECT

Creator, giver of all gifts and sustainer of life, hear and accept the prayers of your people;

in the abundance of your mercy look with compassion on all who turn to you for help; for you are the lover of all souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN

SHARING THE PEACE

May be offered either here or at the end of the service; returning to right relationship with each other and our Creator.

BLESSING ON THE PEOPLE

Creator, who is a strong foundation for all who put their trust in you, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, below the earth, seen and unseen come from you; be now and always be our health and fulfillment of life now and in all time. **AMEN**

At this time, each person is prayed for with the laying on of hands, the use of *oil/smoke*.

Laying on of hands and brushing off
N., I lay my hands upon you [*and anoint you with oil*] in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

CLOSING PRAYER

Creator God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we might be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and welfare of your people; through our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, continue with the Preparation of the Table.

AN ORDER FOR CELEBRATING THE HOLY EUCHARIST

This rite requires careful preparation by the Priest and other participants.
It is not intended for use at the principal Sunday or weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

THE GATHERING

The People and Priest

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the Center of this Sacred Circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

PROCLAIM AND RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

The proclamation and response may include readings, song, talk, dance, instrumental music, other art forms, silence. A reading from the Gospel is always included.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD AND THE CHURCH

SHARE THE PEACE

Either here or elsewhere in the service, all greet one another in the name of the Lord.

PREPARE THE TABLE

Some of those present prepare the table; the bread, the cup of wine, and other offerings, are placed upon it.

THE EUCHARIST

The Great Thanksgiving is said by the Priest in the name of the gathering.

Priest The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Priest Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant gives thanks to God for the created order, and for God's self- revelation to the human race in history;

When appropriate, the particular occasion being celebrated is noted.

If desired, incorporate or adapt the Proper Preface of the Day.

If the Sanctus is to be included, it is introduced with these or similar words

And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we sing (say),

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant now praises God for the salvation of the world through Christ Jesus.

At the following words concerning the bread and wine, the Celebrant holds or lay a hand upon them as they are consecrated.

TAKE, BLESS, BREAK, SHARE

The Celebrant then continues

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

The Celebrant may then introduce and say this or another memorial acclamation by the people.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant then continues

Remembering now the suffering and death and proclaiming the resurrection and ascension of Jesus our Redeemer, we bring before you these gifts. Sanctify + them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Celebrant then prays that all may receive the benefits of Christ's work, and the renewal of the Holy Spirit.
The Prayer concludes with these or similar words

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN!

Break the Bread Share the Gifts of God

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.

The following may be sung or said:

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

At this time the bread (Body) and wine (Blood) are shared in a reverent manner; after all have received, any of the Sacrament that remains is then consumed.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

This or some other prayer is said

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

When a common meal or Agapé is a part of the celebration, it follows here.

LORDS PRAYER
Contemporary version

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

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